First Principles of Boys' Club Leadership

For Teachers of Sunday School Classes and Leaders of Community Clubs

Chas. E. Ford

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"Come on in, the water is fine."

FIRST PRINCIPLES
of
BOYS' CLUB LEADERSHIP

3RD EDITION

For teachers of Boys' Sunday School Classes and Leaders of Community and Church Clubs

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A HANDBOOK FOR THE VOLUNTEER

By CHAS. E. FORD

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To My Mother and Father

MRS. AND REV. JAMES FORD

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Harrison S. Elliott, Philip D. Fagans, Geo. W. Campbell, W. H. Wones and John Bradford have supplied the writer with material for all or part of some lessons. Valuable suggestions and help has come from Glen D. Adams, Rev. F. G. Behner, E. W. Brandenburg, Rev. C. A. Boyd, Dr. Gerritt Verkuyl, E. C. Foster, H. T. Baker and J. A. Van Dis. A. R. Wakeland kindly provided photographs of his boys groups which he caught in activities with his own camera, while The Milwaukee Journal gave inspiration by encouraging the the writer to read column material with articles on "How to Lead a Boy's Club."—C. E. F.

Mould Them Wisely.

I took a piece of plastic clay
And idly fashioned it one day,
And as my fingers pressed it still,
It moved and yielded to my will.

I came again when days were past;
The bit of clay was hard at last,
The form I gave it, still it bore,
But I could change that form no more.

I took a piece of living clay,
And gently formed it day by day,
And moulded with my power and art,
A young child's soft and yielding heart

I came again when years were gone,
It was a man I looked upon;
He still that early impress wore,
And I could change him never more.

Game Room for Boys

Older Boys Conference

INTRODUCTION

In solving the problems of boy leadership the churches and associations are turning to men who have had experience and **who have shown their ability to profit by experience.** What was once a mere round of busy work must be changed into a substantial, reasonable and practicable program.

This program of work with boys needs clearly defined objectives and a method or technique which is constantly showing improvement as the result of intelligently interpreted experience. Our leaders, for the most part, are aware of ultimate objectives—Christ-like character, or loyal church membership. But they often "fumble the ball" when it comes to immediate objectives. They do not seem to understand clearly what is the next step — the things to be done next Friday night or Saturday afternoon.

It is very evident that this little booklet has been wrought out on the anvil of actual hot experiences with boys. Mr. Ford is an unusually capable leader and his experience put in this form will be of great suggestiveness and help to the men who are struggling with this immediate practical aspect of the boy problem.

DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
DR. NORMAN E. RICHARDSON,
Northwestern University.

CONTENTS

With Texts For Use in Sunday Training Class.

	Page
Qualifications—Hebrews XII-1	13
Forming the Group—John I-35-45	15
Committee Service—Matthew XXVI-36-39	16
The Interview—John III-1-6	17
Boy Nature	18
The Older Boy—I Cor. XIII-11	19
Development by Awards	20
Leader's Relation To Church	21
Home Important Unit—Matthew X-34-37	23
Group Service—Luke VI-43-46	23
Use of Dramatic	25
Story Telling Important Adjunct	27
The Lesson Period—Luke II-46-47	28
Testing the Topic—John VIII-32	30
A Practical Lesson—Luke V-1-11	31
Group Games	33
Thrift—Matt. XXV-14-29	37
Vocational Tendencies—Romans XII-4-11	39
Team Games	41
The Lure of the Woods	43
Musical Stunts	44
Personal Work—Matt. V-13-16	46
Service Tasks For Older Boys	47
Setting Goals For Older Boys	49
Father and Son Week	51
Church Plan	53
Order of Business	54
The Variety Program	55
Appendix	57

"Let us proceed together toward the truth"—
Paul Super

LESSON ONE

Qualifications

Any man with a good personal character and Christian Ideals can qualify as a leader of a boys' club, as a scoutmaster, a Big Brother, or as a mentor of any boys' group connected with a community house or Sunday school if he likes boys and is willing to pay the price of leadership which is so needed to reach the thousands of boys in our cities and states who are hungry for the friendship of the small group.

However, there are two qualities which can be cultivated which will put a man "in right" with a group of boys. The most important asset aside from character, it seems to me, is a sense of humor. Boys like to laugh and have fun. They like to tell jokes and stories. They are used to being kept in their place, and a mentor who has the ability to carry the right sort of "atmosphere" will make a successful leader. Do you know that the average boy opens a newspaper first to the sporting page? This is so because of his interest in athletics and games.

A leader does not have to be an athlete, but he must be interested in sports. A successful leader of a boys' Sunday school class at Beloit has lost both his legs, but he is the hero of the crowd because of his interest in sports. Especially in the early adolescent period it is easy for a man to become the hero of the boys, because this age is marked by hero-worship.

A sympathetic relationship with boys has its best foundation in the keen memory of one's own boyhood struggles. Full sympathy is needed. The boy will forgive the mistakes of a leader, but not one who has been unfair. The wise leader will overlook a boy's mistakes.

Boys' meeting with boys in charge

A leader will find it easy to interview boys on hikes or educational trips

LESSON TWO

Forming the Group

When an adult drive is planned, leaders who wish to bring the project to a successful conclusion take care to obtain the "key" men or women. They personally interview one at a time until a strong committee is available to head up the activity. Leaders of boys' clubs need to plan with the same care if they desire to see the new club thrive.

After a committee of three boys has been obtained and every "gang" has its outstanding leaders, the boys then take the responsibility for enlisting the club membership. Some mentors make the mistake of doing all the work and rob the membership of the opportunity for growth and development of latent powers. Boy workers call this working FOR boys. We need to follow the idea of working WITH or working BY boys. They must have the chance for self-expression if the club will mean all it should to the "gang".

When 10 or 12 boys are obtained by the committee, the organization is perfected and the boys choose a name, adopt rules and by-laws and elect officers. The adult leader should be merely adviser with the boy officials doing most of the work. I like a club of not more than 12 boys. The emphasis in past work with boys has been too often on numbers and not on the quality of work done. A leader should be able to interview each boy and know his characteristics and needs. I have known leaders of groups who could not tell you the names of their boys.

A society well organized will work together for a period of years. In fact, it is hard to break it up. On the other hand clubs formed in a quick fashion without interviewing, or placing responsibility on "key" boys who are natural leaders, is merely a hurrah type of organization which may not last long and which cannot affect the lives of the group in a vital way.

LESSON THREE

Committee Service

Some teachers have had difficulty in securing the officers and committeemen to assume responsibility. In most cases this condition is the result of a club endeavoring to exist without committee service.

I have been present at a Sunday morning session of a class where a teacher lost control and the boys seemed pleased that they had created an awkward situation. One boy was put out of the room. Of course this situation would not have arisen if the teacher had had closer contact with his group. After such an experience he had more difficulties to overcome. It would have been better if he had been patient and long suffering and not grasped the worst offender by the collar and taken him from the room.

Most club leaders would solve problems like these and turn failure into success if they would take time to meet officers and committees and coach them in their duties. A consultation even if for a few moments where they can secure individual attention gets results.

We solved a problem of deportment ourselves by the cabinet method with a boys' department of which I was advisory superintendent in a Sunday school and made the opening session a real worship period in which all responsibility was placed on the boys, but the committee meetings brought the results which are vital to any class or club.

Steadfast Club, Westminster Presbyterian Church.

LESSON FOUR

The Interview

Club leaders have given inspiration to boys to set and reach their ambition or become their best self by means of the quiet, friendly chat which comes as an opportunity often when least expected. Sometimes the boys come to the leaders themselves with little problems that they have in their lives. At other periods the leader must make the approach, but in either case he should take time to have a natural talk with the boy.

Talk with him first about the things in which he is interested and in which he excels. Later take up the bad habit or the question of life work or joining the church or going to college. Many mentors have lost the confidence of their boys or failed in their purpose by being too abrupt or too hurried in facing the real issue.

Dr. Allan Hoben of Carlton College and an authority on work with boys, says that many religious leaders have driven boys out of the church because they pressed their religious claims all out of proportion to the other interests of a boy's life. A man who is interested and takes time to participate in a boy's fun and a boy's sports will have the unbiased ear of the members of his group.

Boys' Dept. in Sunday School, Kingsley Methodist Church, with boy committees planning work

LESSON FIVE

Boy Nature

The difference between boys in the adolescent period is so great that boys of 12 and 16 should not be members of the same club. From 12 to 15 years the loyalty to the gang overshadows everything else. In fact boys will have such a group if you assist in its organization or not. I can take you to places in this city where boys' gangs have a hole in a barn or cellar where they have hidden every imaginable sort of thing; which they have banded together and have stolen because they had no leader to introduce a worth while program. A probation officer of the juvenile court told me that more than 75 per cent of the boys who come into trouble in Milwaukee are from these gangs without adult supervision.

The group is marked by its democratic spirit. The boy of the rich mingles with the poor and he does not worry about his personal appearance. He is interested in adventure and has a great imagination. The sensitiveness of his skin, his taste and his smell are all accentuated. He is liable to "bolt" his food and seems fond of explosions and discords. It is the best period to start music lessons as this is the time to train the ear. He loves to hear stories, especially about heroic deeds, and is not especially interested in the opposite sex. Often he avoids them.

Active and quiet games make fun for the group

" The gang instinct itself is almost the cry of the soul to be influenced."—G. Stanley Hall.

LESSON SIX

The Older Boy—"Boy Nor Man"

The boy at 15 has arrived at a point which E. C. Foster, City Secretary For Boys Y. M. C. A. of New York city, calls "no man's land." He is neither a boy nor a man. He is more choice about his pals, begins to notice the girls and wants to appear neat and well dressed, as well as able to take care of himself in company, when it is difficult, because he has grown so rapidly his limbs and voice are hard to control. He will make mistakes, but he has so many important decisions to make which mean so much to his future that we must not lose his confidence. Expect him to do great things and give him a place for expansion. G. Walter Fisk, Oberlin College, calls this period the self-assertive period as at no time is a boy so idealistic or ambitious — knighthood is in flower. Older boys are leaving institutions because they are still treated as little boys and are given no challenging tasks.

An older boy leader

LESSON SEVEN

Development by Awards

Psychologists tell us that best results are obtained with boys by a system of awards than by any sort of punishment. We believe rarely, if ever, a boy should be punished physically or threatened. We were much interested in the views of H. R. Pestalozzi, Milwaukee supervisor of attendance, who advocated recently physical punishment in the columns of The Journal. We doubt the effectiveness of such a method. It would establish a barrier between the mentor and the boy which might never be bridged. The successful club leader may have unruly boys, but the depriving of privileges it seems to me, is the best means of correction.

On the other hand, it is astonishing what progress boys have made for the honor to wear some coveted emblem or insignia such as is provided by the Woodcraft League, the Boy Scouts and insignia used in connection with the Christian Citizenship Training program. However, the group mentor should carefully visualize the actual emblems and standards to be attained in order that they are not confused by endeavoring to accomplish something which is not definite.

If all boys could be kept busy with worth while activity there would be no boys in trouble. We do not like money rewards unless it is exact pay for work accomplished. In fact boys should learn that service should not always mean money reward. Many club mentors have won the interest of boys to browse in various fields of knowledge, aided in physical development and character attainment by personally conducted tours in which boys were at first encouraged in their hobby, and later interested in various activities which tended to widen their vision and growth.

LESSON EIGHT

Leaders Relation to Church

Some boys' clubs detach boys from the church. Others encourage boys to attend the church. Most of the boys' organizations owe a debt to the church for their very existence as consecrated men who were church members and who realized the need of a specialized work among boys, were the sponsors of nearly all the best boys' organizations. As many churches were indifferent to boys' club work, plans have been developed outside these institutions, which sometimes seem to be more attractive to boys than the work provided by the churches. This is an unfortunate situation as we believe that no mere social or physical work is sufficient for the development of character. The church is the permanent institution which provides religious training, but this training should be more than religious instriction as everything we do should be religious.

A church sometimes makes a mistake when it thinks it has the boy question settled when a gymnasium is erected. A trained corps of leaders is much more essential. However, club leaders should encourage their boys to attend church meetings.

In order to do this the leader must be active in his own church. I know a leader of a club not connected with a church who won five of his group for church membership in a single season. The organized class method, it seems to me, is the best tool which the church has, as midweek activity is provided as well as the Sunday session. The Christian Citizenship Training Program can be used with this plan. I have heard of Churches who put the group of boys not because they made too much noise!

The boys of today are the men of tomorrow and the institution which makes an attractive place and program for its boys is following a wise policy.

LESSON NINE

Home Important Unit

The most important agency with which the leader should co-operate is the home. The club should aim to supplement the home in order that it may become a more important factor in the lives of the boys. We have noticed that helpful results have come from having the club meetings held in the homes of the members, as it gives an opportunity for the leaders to meet parents and aids in creating a place in the home for their friends. Too often adults have failed to make a boy's friends welcome at their table and in their home in the same manner they plan to look out for adults.

Tests are provided in many programs to encourage the boys to perform some daily duties around the home which the boy might not do unless the club provided this encouragement. The Christian Citizenship Training Program has some excellent tests.

Care should be taken not to embarrass the boy who has no real home. C. J Atkinson, of the Federated Boys' Clubs, says that two-thirds of the homes of the cities house underprivileged boys. This complicates the problem. However, the meeting place should be near the home if not at the home itself. It is an excellent idea to have fathers' and mothers' nights at club meetings that the leader may discover points of contact.

Outside agencies at times tend to make the home life less attractive and sometimes have failed to understand the place of the home in the community. On the other hand, some parents unwisely hold their children indoors nights when it would be a safer policy to open up the avenues of helpful outside contact rather than wait until a boy is 15 or 16 years and suddenly place him on his own responsibility to run wild. Good books and games should be provided for a boy's home and more parents are beginning to understand that their boys are not an economic advantage, but an obligation.

Group Service

The heart of a boys' club program should be service. It is only when we obtain club service and the gang forgets its own selfish interests in the occupation of working for others that character development is apparent.

I was much interested in the work of the Viking club which was organized in this city a few years ago. During the war period a woman connected with Council of Defense asked the club to aid a poor aged woman who lived alone. For two years the club adopted her and carried a bag of fuel and food weekly, paid for out of the club treasury, until the Associated Charities placed her in an institution. Often the group appointed a special committee to report at her house for work. The Steadfast club found enjoyment in raising money to purchase an invalid's chair for a hospital.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are an opportunity for groups to furnish baskets, but I like to have the group go together in order that they may receive the joy and satisfaction from their kindness. It is a splendid thing for them to hold entertainments for underprivileged children.

An excellent campaign for the single group or an affiliation of groups to undertake is the Swat the Fly campaign. In this campaign the boys mount on newspapers the flies that they kill and prizes or honorable mention are given the boys who have high records. Other good things can be accomplished in a Walk-Right campaign by carrying dodgers or signs to discourage jaywalking, clean-up week, community gardens, the building of bird houses to attract birds and the delivery of messages for adult meetings.

Church Club with leader, at camp

A Christmas stunt

LESSON ELEVEN

Use of Dramatic

Club Leaders have had difficulty in presenting formal plays with their groups. They take too much time to prepare and the clubs have not often been interested to pay the price of preparation. Never the less boys are interested in "stunts" which are easily prepared, like a mock trial, a minstrel show, a district school, or any other entertainment in which they appear in costumes, if they are not required to prepare over too long a period.

Dr. R. S. Donaldson, Associate Director for the Home Mission Board for the Presbyterian Church, first brought to my attention the possibilities of boys acting out Bible stories. Instead of preaching for me to a group of boys one Sunday morning he in a half hour coached several boys to act out the Story of Samson. One of the boys dressed up as Samson's wife and they went through the motions of cutting off Samson's hair, etc. He followed it up with a short statement on strength. It was more effective than several sermons and the boys who took part will never forget the story and lesson.

One of the best places for "stunts" is at camp, where it is a splendid thing for a leader or teacher of a boys' Sunday School class to go and occupy a tent or cabin with his own boys. Many things which are not possible during the season can be done at camp and leaders can get closer to their boys and make nearly as much progress during the camping period as they do the rest of the year.

Garage club meeting place

Baptist S. S. Supt. as leader of Community Boy's Club, secured members for his Sunday School from this group meeting at homes of members

LESSON TWELVE

Story Telling an Important Adjunct to Club Program

A club mentor will be delighted with the interest that his group will take in stories of heroes and adventure. He will discover that his boys will be more interested in the plot than in details or descriptive matter. One who leads boys will be able to interest them in good literature, history, biography, and the Bible, but preeminently the story must be interesting and entertaining and give satisfaction in it self. In telling a story eyes and lips can be brought into play as the story teller does not repeat the same lines as in reading or delivering an address. He protrays mental pictures and images. They may be inaccurate but interesting and graphic because the story teller has an magination and feeling which outlines a vivid picture. However, if the Club Leader does not feel his words the club will not follow him. One of the problems of the story teller is to discover available material. There is some material in the Bible. I have asked a friend, John Bradford, Vice President of the Story Teller's League of Montreal, to suggest some good stories to tell to boys.

John Bradford's List.

"Merry Adventures of Robin Hood"—Pyle.
"The Days of Giants"—Brown.
"Twenty Tales from Tolstoi."
"Love of Life"—Tales by Jack London.
"Why the Chimes Rang"—Alden.
"Mystery Tales for Boys."
"The Boy's King Arthur"—Lainer.
"The Golden Windows"—Richards.
"The Gold Bug"—Poe.
"The Lady or the Tiger"—Stockton.
"The Battle Imp"—Stevenson.

LESSON THIRTEEN

The Lesson Period

The poorest way to present a lesson to boys is to give them a lecture, yet a large number of teachers of boys' Sunday School classes and leaders of boys' clubs fail right at this point. It is difficult with this method to hold attention and interest and it is the wrong way to give the most information as most boys let matter delivered in this fashion come in one ear and go out the other, or else they sit and dream about something else although they may seem to be giving the teacher their attention.

Questions and stories make the best lessons for boys but they have to be planned in advance. It is an excellent idea to write down at least the questions one is to ask before one meets the group. These questions should be thought provoking and not answered by yes or no. It is important that your group be placed in a separate room or place where there will be no distraction, or interruption. Boys who seem to be interested in other things should be asked the questions while some boys bent on mischief need a personal interview in order that the leader may win their co-operation in the lesson period. If the class has an organization the officers should feel the responsibility for the success of the period. I would skip a lesson and substitute something else if I was convinced that it could not be made an interesting lesson.

H. S. Elliott, International Y. M. C. A. Secretary has introduced a new thought into the presentation of a lesson. he believes that the teacher should be merely the chairman of the meeting and present some problem for discussion but that the decisions and conclusions should be group conclusions in which each member should make some contribution, as a result of the questioning of the teacher. He believes that we should teach boys to think and make their own decisions in place of endeavoring to decide everything for them. I was interested in his check of the teacher in an institute in which he designated someone to count how many times the teacher took part in the discussion and how many times the members of the group participated. Try this some time to see if you are doing all the talking. Be sure to use the Bible in your study and discussion!

Thought-provoking questions encourage all to take part

The story gets attention

LESSON FOURTEEN

Testing the Topic

So many leaders have asked about the Outline which H. S. Elliott uses in testing a topic and in arranging the questions to be used. We are glad to present the outline in this lesson with his permission. It will appear in a book soon to be written by him.

BASIC OUTLINE OF FUNDAMENTAL PROCESS OF THINKING OUT DISCUSSIONAL QUESTIONS.

I. Testing the topic.

(a) Would this be interesting and helpful?

1. Why or why not?

II. Locate the big problem in the topic, which would be interesting to the group.

(a) What is the real question in this topic in the life of a boy?

(b) What are the aspects of the topic in which a boy is interested?

(c) Where are the boys making decisions in the topic?

(d) From the material gathered, what is the big question in the lives of boys in the topic?

III. Search For A Solution.

(a) What scripture would help?

(b) What biography or book would help?

(c) Just what is the issue that is up?

(d) How would you sum up the ideal in relation to this problem?

IV. Working out the solution in life.

(a) Where in all concrete places above, in the life of a boy, would it be most helpful to work out this solution?

(b) Will it work?

(c) What difference in action, if any, will it make if boys apply the solution?

(d) How can solution be applied?

V. Work out questions from material obtained by study of above. (Edge into discussion through questions that interest the boy.)

LESSON FIFTEEN

A Fishing Experience

A PRACTICAL LESSON
(As taught by W. H. Wones)

Point of Contact

What's the biggest fish you ever caught or saw? This question may call forth some "fish stories" but only a brief time need be spent on them. The leader may have some personal experience to relate. For a Bible lesson we are to discuss a remarkable fishing experience.

Let's read it in Luke 5:1-11.

Lesson Development.

Where did it happen?

A few lines on the blackboard may be drawn to show Palestine and Lake Galilee, the small lake (length about nine miles and in width three miles) on which or near which Jesus' work was done?

How would you go, if you were to start now from your home to reach it? This may make place and event seem more real.

At opening of this incident, what had happened? A great crowd gathered. (Picture the friendly pushing and eagerness for favorable position).

What did this lead Jesus to do?

(To seek a boat and get out on the water so as to speak to crowd more advantageously).

Whose boat did He get? Why his? (Recognized an old friend).

What did Jesus say to crowd?

(No report. How strange this is? Compare a newspaper report today or an address by a prominent man, for example, the President of the U. S.)

During the talk what was Peter doing?

(A boy's ready answer is usually "fishing", which indicates a boy's preference for activity). (Perhaps Peter was keeping the boat in a favorable position. Undoubtedly he was also listening, drinking in every word uttered by the man who had honored him by using his boat.)

After the address, what did Jesus do?

(Told Peter to pull out into deep water to catch some fish.)

Why did He do this?

(Because he was interested in individuals and in their daily work. Note that the incident so far has occupied only three verses while the balance of story takes eight verses.)

Why refer to his sinfulness?

(Jesus had helped him catch fish and was not talking religion to him.)

Refer again to what Peter was doing while Jesus was speaking to crowd. (Listening; and Jesus always represented antagonism to sin and frequently talked about it).

What was Jesus' reply? vs. 10.

(Kindly encouragement. No further humiliation for Peter. Forget the past. Think of the great future before you. Henceforth you will be seeking men and bring them to the Master.)

What would be a good pass word for this story? How can we as boys be Fishers of Men? Must we leave our school and work behind us like Peter to enlist in the service? What preparation do we need for the work after we enlist?

LESSON SIXTEEN

A Few Games that can be used indoors with boys Clubs

So many of the games which we find in books can not be used for a group meeting indoors or are especially designed for mass work. These games have actually been used to advantage in boys clubs.

CAPTAIN

One of the boys of the club represents the captain and the rest are privates which the officer is supposed to be commanding. When the officer says "Do this" the members of the club must follow the directions. If he says "Do that" he must be disregarded. If a member of the group makes a mistake he should pay a forfeit and direct the others.

BRUSH

The club mentor gets the boys in a circle with their hands in back of each other. The one who is "It" must discover which of the boys in the club brushes him with a brush broom which is passed rapidly from boy to boy to escape detection by the boy in the center. Boys must stand close together so it is impossible for the one who is "It" to discover or see the brush. When a boy is caught with the brush he must take his turn in the center of the circle.

TABLE SOCCER

The leader provides a celuloid ping-pong ball in advance and a piece of chalk. When the group meets the mentor sits the boys around the table dividing it into a section for each boy with the chalk. Then he sets the ping-pong ball in the center and blows a whistle. Each boy blows with his mouth as hard as he can at the ball. If the ball comes through the section of the table held by a member he is penalized one point which record is kept by the leader. When he has ten points he retires from the game. The boy staying at the table the longest wins the game.

BUZZ

Boys sit in a circle. The leader starts the boys counting in turn. When a player comes to 7 or a multiple of seven he says Buzz. If he makes a mistake and says 7 he retires from the game. Seventy-seven is Buzz-Buzz.

QUACK

The one who is chosen to be "It" by the leader takes his place in the circle and is blindfolded. He then approaches the boys in the circle who have hold of hands. As he secures someone he demands that they say "Quack." If he knows the voice he guesses who it is. Sometimes the boys change their voices so that they will not be caught so easily.

FIRE

The "Fire" in this contest is a handkerchief tied into a knot. The club leader appoints one boy to start the game. He stands in the center of the room with the boys sitting around him in a circle. He tosses "Fire" to one of the group who quickly sends it on to someone else. If the player in the center can recover the handkerchief the boy who last touched "Fire" is "It".

TO BE FOUND ON A PENNY

Each lad endeavors to discover the following list of things on a penny.

1. A popular song—America.
2. A privilege—Liberty.
3. A part of the body—I in United States.
4. A period of time—Date from Christ's birth
5. A small animal—Hare (hair).
6. A grain—Ear.
7. A piece of Jewelry—ring.
8. A state of marriage—United.
9. A part of plant—Leaf.
10. A messenger—One cent.

MULE

The leader announces to the boys that he will whisper a name of some animal which at a given signal must be imitated loudly by all. However his real instructions to each but one is to keep still. One boy is asked to bray like a donkey. When the signal is given one loud bray is heard from the unfortunate member of the club to the amusement of the others.

JERUSALEM

The club leader gets the boys in a circle, and takes his place in the center. Then he bows and says Jerusalem and everyone must follow his lead. If he bows and says Jerico everyone must repeat the word but remain quiet. Whoever bows must be "It".

BIRDS, FRUITS OR FLOWERS

A member of the club throws to one of the group a tied handkerchief saying, "Birds, Fruits or Flowers". The catcher must answer giving the name of one of the kinds required while ten is counted. A name must be given which has not yet been used. The boy who fails to respond must leave the game.

Boys from Sturgeon Bay camp at work in cherry orchards operated by Wisconsin State Y M. C A.

LESSON SEVENTEEN

Thrift

Leaders of clubs have materially aided parents by encouraging boys to have a bank account and to assist them to keep records of the use of the money placed at their disposal. Many parents do not see the wisdom of giving boys an allowance while some fathers make the mistake of providing too large an amount, which is not wisely expended. Members of a club should be guided in earning and giving as well as spending.

Boys should be advised to make money themselves but they should not make the mistake of allotting all their time to work and study with no time for recreation. The reader will be able to add to the list of tasks suggested to increase the bank accounts of members of the organization.

HOW BOYS EARNED MONEY

Sale of old papers and magazines.
Washing windows.
Assisting housekeepers clean house
Vacuum cleaning business.
Work on farms in summer.
Prepare lists of names for bankers and others.
Find and sell bait for fishermen.
Shovel walks.
Mow lawns.
Own and operate small printing press.
Raise rabbits or Belgian hares.
Grow Medicinal plants

Own bicycle to run errands.
Glass engraving.
Small garden.
Sell Home made candies.
Carry newspapers.
Be agent for magazines.
Deliver samples or handbills.

Post signs.
Poultry.

Sell baskets.
Articles of woodwork.
Corn clubs.

Pig clubs.

Tutor other boy.
Sell post cards made with own camera.
Gathering Golden Seal.
Gathering nuts or berries in woods.

A trip to a factory

Rev. Athony Soltys and his club

LESSON EIGHTEEN

Vocational Tendencies

What is known as a Boys' Hobby Show has encouraged boys to try their skill at handicraft and art. Several Clubs combine in a district of a city and an exhibit is set up, which is sometimes divided into the following departments: Arts, Collections, Manual Training Work and Pets. Usually a general chairman is provided as well as a chairman and committee for each of these departments. Ribbons are awarded by judges to boys who do the best work in each department. The Institutes encourage Parents to purchase tools for their boys. Some Art Institutes are glad to award scholarships to boys who make good records in the show.

Educational trips for clubs have great value. Trips to business houses, a newspaper plant, or an industrial plant is much better than seeing a moving picture of an industry or reading about it in a book. These trips open up a much wider vision for the choice of profession. Country boys should have the opportunity of trips to the city to visit art galleries and public museums. M. D. Crackel of Cleveland has taken boys on trips across several states to noted places of interest in this country with great profit.

Another method of interesting boys in life work is by having business and professional men give vocational talks to the boys. C. C. Robinson has prepared a vocational blank which will help many an older boy discover his vocational tendencies. He is a specialist in employed boys work who says that the large majority of our boys must face a life of drugery because they must work at something all their lives in which they have no interest.

Older Boys' Council Delegates From Different Churches

A Chicago Boy's Club in action

LESSON NINETEEN

Team Games

Most boys desire to have athletic teams and it is desirable that they have the opportunity to secure the training in self-control, loyalty to a cause, and the spirit of co-operation which comes from team play. However it does not seem wise to emphasize leagues with a set schedule which takes too much time. Experience has taught us that the club with a balanced rogram is more stable. I have had several church leaders come to me with a story of the harm which such a schedule of a Sunday school league accomplished with their boys.

Team play should not be allowed to take up all the interest and activity of a group. I like the plan of occasional contest. Indoor baseball or playground baseball is better than basket-ball as some members of a club do not have a chance to play when a basket-ball team is organized. Even directors of physical education are interested now in providing athletic activity which includes large numbers of participants. They seek to develop the many rather than the few. Volley ball can be played by all the members of a club.

The Y. M. C. A. and churches with gymnasium space are more and more permitting clubs and Sunday school classes to occasionally use the equipment for a nominal fee or no fee at all. The aquatic activity is managed in this same way. Aquatic sports have been more helpful to youth than athletic activity and brings ideal returns in body building as all the muscles are brought into play.

A Leader should have his boys given physical examinations before they take part in contests. Usually there is a doctor, who is a member of a church who is willing to undertake the service as his contribution to the boys work of that church.

Fire, earth and water each have their irresistible appeal

Mounted insects

LESSON TWENTY

The Lure of the Woods

By Philip Fagans, Executive-secretary Woodcraft League.

It is a rare boy who does not dream of a camp fire in the woods and of hearing strange sounds across the water.

Every boy likes to go out across the fields and through the woodland to see what he can see. At such times, boys will ask a leader a thousand questions that a leader cannot answer and the question is:—"How shall we meet these questions and use this knowledge of outdoor things to show a boy the facts of life and the mysteries of creation?"

There can be no question that the boy or man who does not know from personal knowledge, something of trees birds, flowers, stars, is not only missing a great deal of fine fun but lacks a better understanding of life and a comprehension of his Maker.

Most of the trouble is that the leader does not know and thinks that he is too old to learn. Get the habit, when you see something that interests you and do not know the answer of looking it up in a book. You can get from any library, guide books on trees, birds, flowers, etc. You can buy for $1.00 or $1.25 a good guide book. You need not be scientific. If it is a flower, look through the book until you see a picture that looks like the flower you have found, then check up with the description to see if it is the same thing. If you see a strange insect doing something unusual, try to find out what it is either by looking it up yourself or by asking someone who knows. If every time you take a trip, you bring home one or two things whose names you do not know, you will be surprised to see how soon you will have a speaking acquaintance with growing things, and if you encourage the boys to own for themselves some of these guide books, you will find that it will give them increasing pleasure and that such pleasures will last as long as life itself. Then too, if you are in the woods, find out the different uses of woods through building fires and through using the material for handicraft work, jack knife and axe.

The lure of the woods is to find unknown things and know them—then on to something still new.

LESSON TWENTY ONE

Musical Stunts for Clubs

Compiled by Geo. W. Campbell

"Ham and Eggs"—Tune Tammany

Ham and Eggs,
Ham and Eggs,
I like mine fried good and brown;
I like mine fried up side down
Ham and Eggs
Ham and Eggs
Flip'em—Flop'em
Flop'em—Flip'em
Ham and Eggs

SPRING (A Round) Tune —"Just Before the Battle Mother

Spring would be such gloomy weather
Were there nothing else but Spring.
Would be such gloomy weather,
Were there nothing else but Spring. etc.

The Mule-Tune "Turkey in the Straw"

Oh, the mule stood around with his foot on the ground,
The mule stood around with his foot on the ground.
Oh, the mule stood around with his foot on the ground
Hee Haw! ( ) Some boys name.

THE DONKEY

Happy is the donkey,
As he eats his hay
If you do not feed him
You'll find it does not pay.
Hee-Haw, Hee-Haw, Hee-Haw
Hee-Haw, Hee-Haw, Hee-Haw

(The boys make the last two lines more real by flopping their hands to the side of their heads for ears).

IT'S A GOOD THING TO BE A CHRISTIAN

(Tune: Tipperary)

It's a good thing to be a Christian
It's the best thing I know,
It's a good thing to be a Christian,
Wherever you may go.
Say good-by to sin and satan,
Farewell all that's bad.
Let us try to be a better Christian,
It will make our hearts glad.

WHAT DID DELAWARE

Tune, "Our Team will Shine tonight"

1. What did Delaware Boys?
   What did Delaware
   What did Delaware Boys
   What did Delaware
   What did Delaware Boys
   What did Delaware
   I ask you again as a personal friend
   What did Delaware?
2. She wore a New Jersey Boys
   Repeat five times
   I tell you again as a personal friend
   She wore a New Jersey.
3. What did Tennesee.
4. She saw what Arkansaw.
5. How did Wisconsin.

MRS. SHADY

O, Mrs. Shady,
She is a lady.
She has a daughter
Whom I adore,
Each night I court her,
I mean the daughter,
Every Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday,
Saturday afternoon at half-past four.

(The boys have lots of enjoyment in repeating over and over again the last two lines without taking another breath).

ALLOUETTE

All—Allouette, gentille allouette
Allouette Je te' plumare
Leader—Je te plumare le tete
Club—Je te plumare le tete.
Leader—Allouette
Club—Allouette.
All—O, Allouette, gentille allouette
Allouette, Je te'plumare.

Other verses.

et le cou.	et le flanc.
et le ju.	et le portrine.
et le tres.	et le corps.
et le dos.	

LESSON TWENTY TWO

Personal Work

Boys work in the church is not complete without personal work among older boys. First by the leader with the members of his group and second by the boys themselves. "Key" older boys should be encouraged to win other boys for Christ. One of the best ways for a boy to join a church and take a working relation to the Kingdom is by close contact with a leader who prepares the way for the relationship and then later sees that the boys new decisions find expression. A boy who has taken a forward step expects to do something as a result and opportunity should be given him to work for others. The responsibility of winning another boy through friendship to accept Christ is perhaps the hardest task to present to a boy. It is not wise to enlist more than a few boys at a time and they must be given constant help and inspiration. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew of the Episcopal churches and the Secondary School boys' Christian Movement of the Y. M. C. A. has provided experienced methods with which it would be well for a club leader to become familiar.

Do not expect results from boys too soon. Explain that it often takes a year for one boy to win another and that the accomplishment means much prayer and sacrifice of time sometimes for weeks before any direct approach should be made in presenting the claims of Christ.

Boys who have really won another often become well grounded themselves because they have faced a difficult test. In China it is said that a Native Christian is not accepted for the church until they have first won another for the Kingdom. Boys thus tested by fire are more likely to be open for the Christian Callings. Dr. John Timothy Stone said recently "that 80% of all the young men in the Theological Seminaries decided to enter the ministry in their teens." It is a fine thing to get older boys in touch with Christian College men. Have them speak to your group. High school boys look with special favor upon college men who are active in college work and a friendship with them will encourage personal work. Some colleges send out deputation teams to country towns and cities to do this sort of service. Can we as leaders not do more to promote this sort of activity which is so needed today in the lives of older fellows?

LESSON TWENTY THREE

Service Tasks for Older Boys

Leaders of Older Boys will find that the various Older Boys Conferences arranged by the Y.M.C.A., Sunday School Association and Church Federations will stimulate their key boys to a consecration and a spirit of worship and loyalty to the church, which does not seem possible in other mass meetings. The spirit soon wanes, however, if the boys are not given real tasks to do back at the home base. Because these service tasks are so essential for the development of older boys, a list of things for them to do is given.

PHYSICAL—

Organize and coach boys' athletic teams.
Assist in inter-church and inter-school athletic leagues.
Teach boys how to swim.
Arrange tennis and quoit tournaments.
Assist in summer camps as leaders.
Promote clean athletics.
Help younger boys pass athletic tests.
Chairman of athletics in boys' department in Sunday School.
Act as patrol leader of Boy Scouts.

SOCIAL—

Be Club Leader for younger boys' class or club.
Be assistant Club Leader aiding older men.
Chairman of social committee for boys' department in Sunday School.
Conduct entertainments for younger boys or poor boys.
Get up stag socials.
Organize Glee Clubs and Orchestras at Church for service at Missions, etc.
Be Story Teller for boys' clubs.
Take out needy children for auto rides.
Be member of Older Boys' district or city council.

EDUCATIONAL—

Lead Sight Seeing Club for younger boys.

Lead Stamp Club for younger boys.

Lead Wireless Club for younger boys.

Editor of paper for boys' department in Sunday School.

Be promoter of nature study, camera, debating, and cartoon clubs.

Be publicity man for Swat the Fly Campaign.

Make signs for coming events.

RELIGIOUS—

Present papers at boys' conference.

Be member of boys' gospel team or personal work group for younger boys.

Have office in Sunday School Class or Church Work.

Raise and give money for missions.

Help a boy to overcome bad habits.

Organize Bible Study Club or new Sunday School Class.

LESSON TWENTY FOUR

Setting Goals for Older Boys

Boys' Conferences have brought together many thousand of teen-age boys each season. These meetings have played a major role in the forward step decisions which boys have made, but far greater results will be obtained if conference leaders can have better co-operation from teachers of classes and club leaders. More care should be exercised by club mentors in selecting delegates or "key" boys who attend. Some leaders have made the mistake of taking a whole class. Others have permitted boys to represent them who were not matured or receptive to enter into the serious purpose of the conference.

The boys should be picked individually. I like the plan of having a committee selected to confer with the leader. The leader should attend himself even if he only has two or three boys to attend. The trip out and back affords an opportunity for heart to heart talks which may result in immediate expression or even the turning point in the life of a boy. Conference leaders have found that it is well for boys to pay for half their own expenses although an investment by the society itself carries with it an obligation to the boy to make some return to the organization. Some boys may be cultivated and be prepared for Life work and Christian decision conferences. It is obvious that there could be no forward steps if only out and out Christian boys were used.

It has been discovered that older boys in their teens are open for decision for the Christian Callings. Many of them later will close their ears to any such appeal! Every denomination needs ministers these days while the greatest drawback to the extension of the Kingdom in the missionary field is the number of trained workers available for the task. More than 12,000 men are needed in the next four years, and only 75% of them will be available unless leaders of older boys aid the general campaign. Other Christian Callings face a similar situation. A club leader should present this matter to choice boys in his groups. Prepared vocational blanks may help. Do not overlook the employed boys field. Many of these choice fellows have returned to high school and to college with profit to the cause of Christ!

NO WONDER HE DOESN'T FIND HIS SON! HE IS BLINDFOLDED BY HIS BUSINESS INTERESTS
MY BUSINESS INTERESTS
FATHER
SON
"FATHER & SON DAY" WILL SERVE TO "INTRODUCE FATHER TO SON" ALL OVER THE CITY, WITH BANQUETS & SOCIAL GATHERINGS. ONLY TOO OFTEN, THE TWO ARE STRANGERS
"FATHER AND SON" DAY.
NOVEMBER
9
THURSDAY

LESSON TWENTY FIVE

Father and Son Week

Father and Son week has grown to be an international event. It has fostered the spirit of comradeship between fathers and sons which is so needed by both the men and the boys. The boys need the advice and suggestions of the father while the men need the play spirit, and high ideals of the sons.

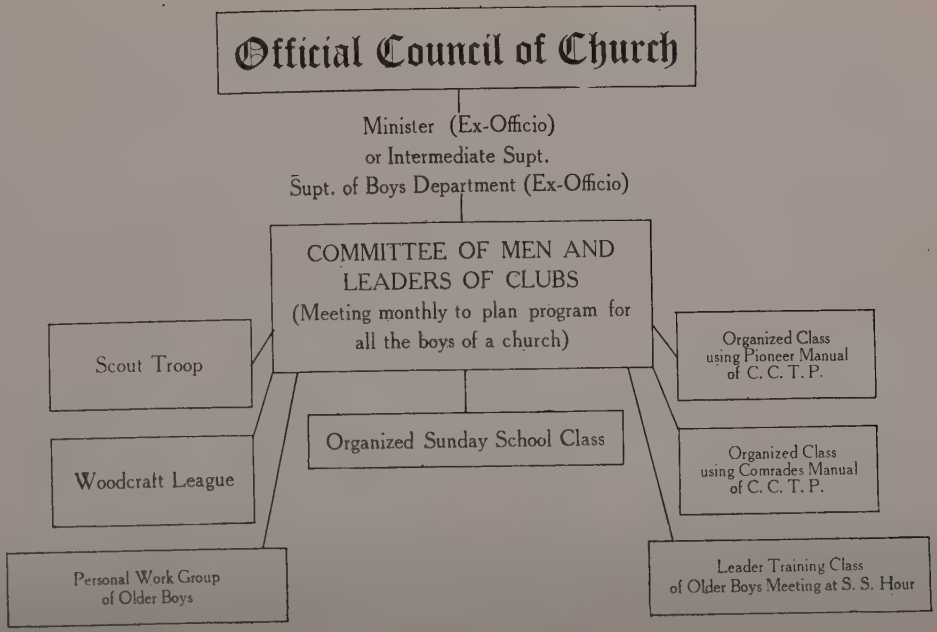
Some clubs have had very successful father and son meetings. These meetings because of the small number connected with a club have been delightful occasions but the church seems to secure the best results by combining all the boys and mens groups connected with it for a united affair.

Some churches have failed to plan the program so that the boys had a good time. The social evening should not be made an opportunity to "preach" to the boys. Boys should be placed on the program and at the week day gathering a fine social good time is of most importance.

However churches have secured the best results where the social approach is followed up with an evening worship period for fathers and sons. Every church has boys in the Sunday school whose fathers do not come to church while there are also fathers in church whose boys are not in Sunday school. They will come to a social evening and we know a church where twenty-five men and boys were secured to attend the follow-up church service who had not been attending on Sunday.

Still better results can be obtained if a third session is planned. At this event have the fathers and sons meet separately. The fathers to attend a conference on the needs of the boys and the boys a meeting to decide to increase the boys work of the church. Some churches have been able to start new men's bible classes as a result of the special meettings planned for fathers and sons.

We attended an evening father and son service at a church where one boy presided, another read the scripture, another made the prayer and still another introduced the pastor who made the address of the evening. The boys were delighted with that meeting.


Official Council of Church
Minister (Ex-Officio)
or Intermediate Supt.
Supt. of Boys Department (Ex-Officio)
COMMITTEE OF MEN AND LEADERS OF CLUBS
(Meeting monthly to plan program for all the boys of a church)
Scout Troop
Woodcraft League
Personal Work Group of Older Boys
Organized Sunday School Class
Organized Class using Pioneer Manual of C. C. T. P.
Organized Class using Comrades Manual of C. C. T. P.
Leader Training Class of Older Boys Meeting at S. S. Hour

LESSON TWENTY SIX

A Church Plan

The chart on the opposite page is only intended to be suggestive. Some large churches could maintain the complete organization. Others after a conference of leaders would not care to adopt some features included in it. However, it is evident that some church plan is necessary to secure the best results. Some churches which have trained leaders either at the Sunday school hour or at a midweek session have produced not only enough leaders to carry on the work among the boys of a church, but have also been able to provide leaders for groups of boys in the community which as an extension work drew new blood into the active work of the church.

It does not seem wise to establish a boys' department in the Sunday school if there are not enough boys to provide a mass spirit although this has been accomplished in some churches with forty or fifty boys. A separate meeting place is necessary as well as a parallel work for girls. Most churches do not even have a superintendent who gives the boys and girls a chance to take part in the service although each year more leaders realize the value of this advisory relationship.

The recommendations of Eugene C. Foster for local churches if followed, secure excellent results. The following points are part of his plan.

1. The appointment of a committee of three on work with boys.

2. An adequate card index record of every boy over 13 years of age, such record to provide for the careful tracing of the boy's Christian growth.

3. A stated evening or period once a month when the pastor, superintendent and boys work committee, shall call the roll of each boy, and determine what can be done by the church in his interest.

4. Each class organized with committee service.

5. Each church or group of churches have a group of older boys in training for service.

LESSON TWENTY SEVEN

Order of Business

It is not of course wise to have a set plan for a program. A leader will want to vary the following suggested order for a club meeting.

The President should preside.

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Roll call by secretary.
3. Sentence prayers by boys.
4. Bible Lesson (If club does not have Sunday session) conducted by club teacher or mentor.
5. Singing, story telling, educational talk, vocational talk or group games.
6. Business session.
   - (a) Reading of minutes of last meeting by secretary.
   - (b) Reports of standing committees.
   - (c) Reports of special committees.
   - (d) Treasurer's report.
   - (e) Old business.
   - (f) New business.
7. The passing of program tests.

Sunday Session

1. The president presiding calls meeting to order.
2. Sentence prayers.
3. President introduces teacher to present lesson.
4. Club announcements.
5. Collection and distribution of paper, etc.

LESSON TWENTY EIGHT

The Variety Program

While leading a discussion in a boys' work training class a teacher of a boys' class made the remark that he thought he was doing about all he could if he was present on Sunday morning to teach the Bible Class, let alone accomplish the other activity suggested. However, he saw the advisability of having the boys at his home for a social occasion during the week in order to make his work effective.

After some discussion the group of men concluded that it is possible by using an assistant leader, by calling in other helpers to give certain things, like a doctor for a sex-hygiene talk, to cover the field and conduct hikes, provide group games and other activities which would care for the boys' all around growth. In fact a variety of activities is necessary to interest all the boys of a group.

If a leader would plan his midweek meetings for several months in advance.most of the suggested activity could be included. For the club that does not have Bible Study on Sunday I like to include Bible Study in the meeting each session and then follow it with a varied program of games, business meeting, the passing of tests, stories or educational talks. I'm sure that most leaders have failed at times to have sentence prayers in their groups. You are missing a vital force which helps to put things over which sometimes do not seem possible. The best way to get boys to lead in prayer among their fellows is to speak to them in advance and secure their promise to respond, rather than take them off their guard.

The small group has character-kindling powers

The Viking Club

APPENDIX

MODEL OF A CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS

To be varied to suit the needs of the club or class in question

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME—This club shall be known as the "Minikani" Club of South Baptist Church. It will be affiliated with the Young Peoples Division of South Baptist Church.

ARTICLE II. OBJECT—Its object shall be the development of its members in body, mind and spirit.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS.—Its officers shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer, and a representative to the Sunday School board. (The Leader and assistant leader are advisory officers). The officers will constitute the executive committee of the club.

ARTICLE IV. MEETINGS—The club shall hold a Sunday session for bible study and a week-day meeting at which activities other than Bible study will be carried out. The week-day session will be held in turn at the homes of the members.

ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP—The membership of the club shall be limited to twelve. Any member of the membership committee may propose a new member if there is a vacancy in the roster. A candidate failing of election can not again be proposed for a year.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I—DUTIES OF OFFICERS—The president shall preside at all meetings, and conduct them by a formal order of business and shall perform the other duties usually belonging to this office. In case of his absence these duties will be performed by the vice-president. The vice-president shall be the chairman of the membership committee.

SECTION 2. SECRETARY—The secretary shall keep a record of all meetings. He will receive, read to the club and answer all letters relating to club affairs and preserve all club papers. He will notify new members of their election as well as keep a list of the members, their addressess and telephone numbers. He shall file a monthly report with the Supt. of the Young Peoples Division of the South Baptist Sunday School.

SECTION 3. The treasurer shall receive collect, hold, and pay out all club moneys, subject to the order of the club. He will open a bank account and present his accounts for auditing to the Club Leader twice a season.

SECTION 4. THE CLUB LEADER—Will help committees plan activities be a member of committees and lead in activities as well as teach the lesson on Sunday morning. The assistant leader will be a younger man who shall aid the club leader in his work.

SECTION 5. Committees will be appointed by the president by the help of the leader to undertake special service. They will continue in office only until their task is done.

SECTION 6. ELECTION—At the business meeting the first week-day session in September and also in February the president shall appoint a committee of three including the club leader to nominate a list of officers for the half year term. This committee shall notify their nominees, and, in case of any refusals shall supply their places. They shall then present the list to the club for election.

SECTION 7. TERM OF OFFICE –No person shall hold office more than six months. No officer shall be reelected to the same office.

ARTICLE II—CONDUCT OF MEETINGS—All meetings shall be conducted by the rules of parliamentary law. No person except the secretary shall print or cause to be printed any report of any meeting unless authorized by the club.

ARTICLE III—AMENDMENTS—This constitution and by-laws may be amended at any regular business meeting of the club by two thirds vote of the members present providing that a written notice of the intended change has been given one week in advance.

ARTICLE IV— SUSPENSION OF RULES –Any provision in this constitution and by-laws which is capable of being temporarily laid aside may be "suspended" for not more than one meeting ,by unanimous consent.

NAMES WHICH HAVE BEEN SELECTED BY BOYS FOR THEIR CLUB WHICH HAS MADE A GOOD RECORD

ACES
APACHES
AMERICAN EAGLES
AURORAS
BEAVERS
BEES
KHRISTIAN KNIGHTS
CARDINALS
CLIPPERS
NORSEMEN
PIRATES
ROVERS
SPHINX
IRQUOIS
PANTHERS
MOULDERS
SQUARES
PIONEERS
LIVE WIRES
MUSKETEERS
BADGERS
MOHAWKS
CAYUGAS
KNIGHTS OF HONOR
CRESCENTS
MERCURY
JUNIOR OPTIMISTS
TRIANGLES
ACMA
RANGERS
NEPHEWS OF UNCLE SAM
PERSHING
COMRADES
WEST ENDS
KI-CU-WA
ROOSTERS
OVER THE TOPS
T.N.T'S

Organized class leaflets sent free. Address—International Sunday School Association, 1416 Mallers Building, 5 So. Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Leaflets to Aid Home Co-operation on Week-Day Religious Instruction, Table Talk, Discipline, Etc.—The Abingdon Press,—150 - 5th Ave., New York City.

Leaflets on Health and Sex—Wisconsin State Board of Health, Madison, Wis. Free.

Leaflets on Thrift—Savings Division, War Loan Organization, U. S. Treasury, Washington, D. C. Free.

Trail a Boy Travels—15 cents. Write H. S. McCowan, Grinnell, Iowa.

Plans for Kite and Sail Boat making.—Write South Park Supt., Washington Park, Chicago, Ill.

The Father and Son Idea—15 Cents.— Association Press, 847 Madison Ave., New York.

Community Recreation. Booklet of social and active games. Association Press.

High School Bulletin No. 4—Containing Bible study courses available for boys' clubs. Sent free. Association Press.

Christian Citizenship Training Program Manuals—American Baptist Society, 125 North Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Leaflets on Woodcraft—Woodcraft League, 13 West 29th St., New York City.

IN THIS LITTLE BOOK WE HAVE ENDEAVORED TO TELL YOU HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY LEAD A GROUP OF BOYS. WILL YOU VOLUNTEER FOR THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE ALL ROUND DEVELOPMENT OF A GROUP OF BOYS IN YOUR CHURCH OR NEIGHBORHOOD?

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